



REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-8, and 21-28 remain in the application. Of these, claims 1, 3-8, 21, and 23-28 stand rejected, and claims 2 and 22 stand withdrawn.

In a telephone conference with the Examiner on November 8, 2004, the Applicants and the Examiner briefly discussed the rejection of claims 1 and 21 over Goenka et al., but no agreement was reached.

In light of the telephone conference with the Examiner, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 21. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at paragraph 14 and in FIGS. 2 and 3.

1. Declaration

In the telephone conference with the Examiner on November 8, 2004, the Applicants and the Examiner briefly discussed the declaration, and after review of the declaration, the Examiner determined that the declaration is not defective.

2. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 21, 23 and 24 Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 21, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Goenka et al. (US Pat. No. 6,248,247; hereinafter "Goenka").

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 21 to further clarify that the final product/structure of Applicants' claims 1 and 21 is distinguishable from that of Goenka's FIG. 3G. The final product/structure of Applicants' claims 1 and 21 comprises **a crossover circuit trace of uniform composition**, as shown by the hatched portion 106 in Applicants' FIGS. 2 and 3. See also Applicants' specification at paragraph 14. Conversely, the final product/structure of Goenka comprises a **non-uniform composition**. See Goenka FIG. 3G at 33 and 16. See also col. 2, lines 37-63 and col. 3, line 22 – col. 4, line 11. With continuing reference to Goenka at FIG.

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3G, if the cross-over circuit trace disclosed by Goenka was of a uniform composition, then the etching would etch the entire cross-over circuit trace, tending to destroy the portion 33 of the cross-over circuit trace.

Thus, Applicants' claims 1 and 21 are believed to be allowable for at least the above reasons. Applicants' claims 3, 4, 23, and 24 are believed to be allowable at least for the reason that they depend from allowable claims 1 and 21.

3. Rejection of Claims 5-8 and 25-28 Under 35 USC 103(a)


Claims 5-8 and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goenka, as applied to claims 1, 3, and 4 above, and further in view of Middlehurst et. al. (US Pat. No. 6,604,967; hereinafter "Middlehurst") and Leigh et. al. (US Pat. No. 5,986,893; hereinafter "Leigh").

Applicants believe claims 5-8 and 25-28 are allowable at least for the reason that they depend from allowable claims 1 and 21, and because Middlehurst and Leigh fail to disclose the limitations of parent claims 1 and 21 (see previous argument, *supra*).

4. Conclusion

Given the above Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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